

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6, 9-24 and 27-36 are pending. Claims 7-8 and 25-26 have been canceled. Claims 1-6, 9-19, 23-24 and 36 have been amended. Support for amended claims can be found in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Drawings for the present application were object to as being of insufficient quality for publication. Formal drawings of Figs. 1-6 are attached hereto. These formal drawings replace previously handwritten reference numbers.

Claims 1 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 18 now comply with 35 U.S.C. § 101. (See *In re Beauregard*, 53 F.3d 1583 (Fed. Cir. 1995); MPEP 2106). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1-2, 5-8, 13, 15, 19-20, 23-26, 31, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 5,579,408 to Sakaguchi et al. ("Sakaguchi"). Claims 3-4, 14, 16-18, 21-22, 32, and 34-36 were rejected under 35 § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Sakaguchi and U.S. patent 6,340,967 to Maxted ("Maxted"). Claims 9 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakaguchi. Claims 10-12 and 28-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Sakaguchi and U.S. patent 5,613,019 to Altman et al. ("Altman"). Applicants request reconsideration and allowance in light of the amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants respectfully submit that Sakaguchi does not teach or suggest each and every feature of the present invention as claimed. For example, claim 1 recites, in part, "(c) wherein the integer values are selected from a group of at least four integers, the at least four integers include an integer value corresponding to a closed stroke." Nowhere does Sakaguchi discuss or suggest this feature as claimed. Examiner relies on Fig. 3a, elements 7-9, of Sakaguchi to show this feature. However, each of elements 7-9 is an open stroke, not a closed stroke. For example, element 7 (input stroke number 7) in Fig. 3a of Sakaguchi is simply a straight line in direction 2. This is made clear in Sakaguchi's Fig. 4 as element 7 is characterized as having "2 2 2" direction data. In fact, each of the three partitioned areas of the kanji (Chinese)

character of Sakaguchi's Fig. 3a is created by 3 open strokes, and is thus defined by 9 integers (3 integers per stroke). Applicants believe neither Maxted nor Altman cures this deficiency. Accordingly, claim 1 should be allowed for at least these reason. Claims 2-5, 9, and 9-17, which depend from claim 1, should be allowed for at least a similar rationale, as well as the additional features they recite.

Independent claims 18, 19, and 36, recite, in part, "an integer value corresponding to a closed stroke." As discussed above for claim 1, the cited references do not discuss this feature. Accordingly, these independent claims should be allowed for at least this reason. Claims 20-24 and 27-35, which depend from claim 19, should be allowed at least for a similar rationale as discussed above, as well as the additional features they recite.

In addition, with respect to claims 12 and 29, Sakaguchi and Altman, individually and in combination, do not discuss or suggest the claimed features. For example, claim 12 recites, in part, "the character recognition module is configured to recognize a closed character when the end distance is less than a maximum distance." Examiner relies on passages at col. 36, lines 49-56 of Altman as showing this feature. However, these passages simply discuss removing an intermediate point in a stroke if a distance between the intermediate point and a segment (defined by two other points) is less than a threshold difference. It does not discuss an end distance, nor closed characters. In fact, the last point(s) of Altman cannot be compared to the threshold difference since no appropriate segment can be defined. That is to say, an end point of Altman cannot be an intermediate point. (Altman: col.36, lines 14-16: "If H has been set to a point beyond the last point in the array, then there are no more points that form the stroke that can be removed.").

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Reply to Office Action of August 25, 2004

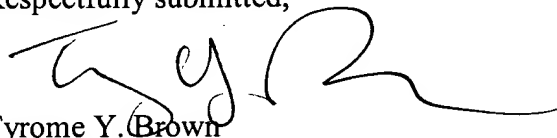
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1-6. These sheets, which include Figs. 1-6 replaces the original sheets including Figs. 1-6.

Attachment: 6 Replacement Sheets